



News Release

Maryland National Guard



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MARYLAND MILITARY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES INDEPENDENT PRE-DECISIONAL FACILITIES & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT STUDY RESULTS

BALTIMORE – The Maryland Military Department today released the results of a pre-decisional independent study on the condition of its facilities across Maryland. The Maryland General Assembly mandated the study. *MAKERS Planning*, a west coast consulting firm, conducted this study.

“The study is a comprehensive look at the conditions of the Maryland National Guard facilities,” said Major General Bruce F. Tuxill, Adjutant General of Maryland. “While the study does not articulate a strategy, it does provide facts and options that may be used as a starting point for tough facility decisions that must be made in the future.”

The Maryland Military Department was directed by the General Assembly to evaluate their future facility needs and identify if there are opportunities for infrastructure reductions. The study reviewed the conditions of 34 armories across Maryland. The study also looked at the space requirements of all Military Department branches including the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Many of the Military Department’s facilities were built between 30 and 50 years ago. The Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore, Headquarters for the Military Department, is more than 100 years old. The study revealed that the conditions of many armories are substandard. Many do not provide adequate space while others have space for much larger units. The substandard facilities have a detrimental impact for recruitment and retention of soldiers and airmen in the National Guard. There currently is a \$10 million backlog in maintenance on Maryland National Guard facilities and the likelihood of obtaining the funds to bring the facilities to acceptable levels is remote.

MEMA has occupied its current facility at the State Emergency Operations Center only since November 1999 however; the facility was built to specifications based upon their organizational structure at the time. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, MEMA has assumed new responsibilities in homeland security and its workforce has dramatically increased in size from 30 to more than 50. The study addresses MEMA's changing space requirements.

A couple of the many variables, which will impact future facility decisions, are expected to be announced later this year. The Department of Defense is scheduled to announce its next round of Base Realignments and Closures and the Army and Air Force are expected to announce their transformation changes to their reserve components. The transformation will announce what new units of the National Guard are being formed, which existing units will be modified and which units are being abolished. The transformation has come about because the Cold War has ended and the Department of Defense is restructuring units to be smaller, more mobile and more lethal.

Based on this information, the Maryland National Guard has the difficult chore of determining where the new units will be based. The decision on where a unit will be stationed will be based on many factors including the space of an armory and its condition. Ultimately, armories that cannot be used will be divested. The proceeds from divestiture will be used to fund both maintenance projects for remaining facilities and construction for new facilities. This process of rehabilitation and construction will be ongoing with many changes over the ensuing years.

The study has no impact on the immediate ability of the Maryland National Guard to perform its federal and state missions. The Guard maintains a mobile capability that allows them to respond to emergencies. Despite commitments for Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle, the Maryland National Guard has more than 85 percent of its citizen soldiers and citizen airmen available for state missions as demonstrated during Tropical Storm Isabel.

The Maryland Military Department, an independent department of the State of Maryland, consists of the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Defense Force.

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